Champions Residential Inspections SAE Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide

Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Questions

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1. What factor is NOT conducive to termite activity?

A. Moisture

B. Dry wood

C. Warmth

D. Food sources

2. Which of the following is not a component of Portland Cement production?

A. Limestone

B. Silicon

C. Gypsum

D. Calcium

3. What do most inspectors recommend for cleaning windows and achieving a shine?

A. Glass Cleaner

B. Vinegar Solution

C. Newspaper

D. Microfiber Cloth

4. What device immediately shuts off gas flow if the pilot light goes out?

A. Gas valve

B. Thermocoupler

C. Compressor

D. Ignitor

5. Which of the following accurately describes the behavior of drywood termites?

A. Get the moisture they need from the wood they eat

B. Grow bigger than subterranean termites

C. Build hard-to-see shelter tubes

D. Build the easy-to-spot shelter tubes

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6. What is another common home defect associated with roof structures?

A. Pest Infestation

B. Siding Damage

C. Roofing

D. Foundation Damage

7. Which setting should electric stove tops be energized from?

A. High to low

B. Medium to high

C. Low to medium to high

D. Low to high

8. What does the type of soil determine in construction?

A. Roof design

B. Foundation type

C. Wall height

D. Insulation material

9. Which building material is most resistant to weather conditions when properly fired?

A. Unfired bricks

B. Clay bricks

C. Concrete blocks

D. Wood panels

10. What do granules on composition roofs protect against?

A. Water damage

B. Wind damage

C. Sun damage

D. Debris accumulation

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Answers

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1. B
2. C
3. C
4. B
5. D
6. C
7. C
8. B
9. B
10. C

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Explanations

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1. What factor is NOT conducive to termite activity?

A. Moisture

B. Dry wood

C. Warmth

D. Food sources

Dry wood is not conducive to termite activity because termites primarily thrive in damp, moist environments. They are attracted to moisture because it helps them digest cellulose, which is found in materials like wood. Termites typically prefer wood that has a certain level of moisture content, as it not only aids in their feeding but also provides a suitable nesting environment. In contrast, dry wood lacks the moisture that termites need to survive and feed effectively. Therefore, while factors such as moisture, warmth, and the presence of food sources (all conducive conditions for termite infestation) support their activity, dry wood significantly reduces the likelihood of termite presence.

2. Which of the following is not a component of Portland Cement production?

A. Limestone

B. Silicon

C. Gypsum

D. Calcium

Portland cement production involves several key ingredients, which are essential to creating the final product. Among the choices, gypsum is indeed a component of the cement production process, as it is added to regulate the setting time of cement. Limestone is typically the primary ingredient in cement manufacture due to its high calcium content. Silicon compounds, often derived from materials like clay or sand, play a crucial role in forming silicates that contribute to the strength and durability of the finished cement. In contrast, while calcium is a key element in the chemical makeup of Portland cement, it is not typically referred to as a standalone component but rather as a part of limestone and other materials used in the process. Gypsum stands out in this context as an additive used during the final stages of cement production. This distinction is critical as it underscores that while gypsum is integral to ensuring proper cement functionality, it is not a foundational raw material like the others mentioned. Understanding these relationships in the production process clarifies the role each component plays and why gypsum is categorized differently in this situation.

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3. What do most inspectors recommend for cleaning windows and achieving a shine?

A. Glass Cleaner

B. Vinegar Solution

C. Newspaper

D. Microfiber Cloth

When it comes to cleaning windows and achieving a shine, using newspaper is often recommended due to its unique properties. Newspaper is effective at absorbing moisture and has a slightly abrasive texture that can help remove dirt and grime without scratching the glass. This method can leave windows streak-free and provides a polished appearance. Additionally, newspaper ink often contains oils and substances that can aid in the cleaning process. It's also a cost-effective and environmentally friendly option, as it utilizes a material that would otherwise be disposed of. While other methods such as glass cleaner, vinegar solutions, and microfiber cloths can also be effective, they may not provide the same level of shine and streak-free finish that some people have experienced with newspaper. For instance, glass cleaners can sometimes leave residue if not used properly, and while vinegar is a great natural cleaner, it may not shine as effectively as newspaper does. Microfiber cloths are known for being gentle on surfaces and highly absorbent, but they may not achieve the same polished effect as newspaper without the use of a specific cleaning solution.

4. What device immediately shuts off gas flow if the pilot light goes out?

A. Gas valve

B. Thermocoupler

C. Compressor

D. Ignitor

The correct answer is the thermocoupler. This device plays a crucial safety role in gas appliances that use a pilot light, such as water heaters and furnaces. When the pilot light is functioning, it heats the thermocoupler, which generates a small electric current that keeps the gas valve open. If the pilot light goes out, the thermocoupler cools down and ceases to produce this current. As a result, the gas valve automatically closes, preventing any potential gas leak and ensuring safety by stopping the flow of gas. While the gas valve is important in regulating gas flow, it is the thermocoupler that is responsible for detecting the absence of a pilot light and initiating the shutdown process. Other devices mentioned, such as a compressor or ignitor, do not have this specific safety function related to the pilot light. The compressor is typically found in refrigeration units, and the ignitor is used to light the pilot light but does not control gas flow. This highlights the specifically safety-oriented role of the thermocoupler within gas systems, making it the correct answer.

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5. Which of the following accurately describes the behavior of drywood termites?

A. Get the moisture they need from the wood they eat

B. Grow bigger than subterranean termites

C. Build hard-to-see shelter tubes

D. Build the easy-to-spot shelter tubes

The behavior of drywood termites is accurately described by the statement that they get the moisture they need from the wood they eat. Drywood termites are unique in that they can live in dry wood without needing to access additional moisture from the soil, unlike subterranean termites which require a damp environment and often create shelter tubes to retain moisture and protect themselves. While subterranean termites construct hard-to-see shelter tubes, drywood termites do not build these structures at all. Instead, drywood termites create nests within the wood they consume. They tend to leave behind frass, which can sometimes be observed, but their lifestyle does not require the creation of visible tubes to connect to a moisture source. Therefore, the correct understanding of drywood termites centers on their ability to thrive in dry materials and their preference for nesting within the wood itself without the need for external shelter tubes or moisture sources.

6. What is another common home defect associated with roof structures?

A. Pest Infestation

B. Siding Damage

C. Roofing

D. Foundation Damage

The option identified highlights roofing issues as a common home defect associated with roof structures, which is accurate because roofing problems can significantly impact a home's integrity and safety. Common defects found in roofing include leaks, improper installation, damaged or missing shingles, and deterioration from weather exposure. These issues can lead to further complications, such as water damage, mold growth, and even structural problems within the home. Understanding that roofing is an integral component of a home's structure—serving as the primary barrier against environmental elements—it becomes evident why defects in this area are critical to consider during inspections. Addressing roofing issues proactively can result in fewer costly repairs in the long run, thereby enhancing the overall longevity and reliability of the home. While other options like pest infestation, siding damage, and foundation damage are also important concerns in home inspections, they do not directly relate to the roof structure itself as roofing does. Each of those issues can affect different aspects of the home's framework, but they do not inherently arise from or pertain to the roof in the same manner that roofing defects do.

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7. Which setting should electric stove tops be energized from?

A. High to low

B. Medium to high

C. Low to medium to high

D. Low to high

The correct answer is that electric stove tops should be energized from low to medium to high. This approach is necessary because it allows for better control over the cooking process, facilitating a gradual increase in temperature. Starting at a low setting gives users the flexibility to heat the stove top without risking damage to the cookware or causing food to burn. As the cooking progresses, users can adjust the temperature to medium and then high as needed, ensuring even cooking and efficiency. In contrast, beginning at a high setting could result in immediate, intense heat that can scorch food or lead to uneven cooking. The other options do not provide the same range of control or safety that starting from low to medium to high does, which is crucial for proper cooking techniques. Ultimately, this method ensures optimal performance and safety while using electric stove tops.

8. What does the type of soil determine in construction?

A. Roof design

B. Foundation type

C. Wall height

D. Insulation material

The type of soil is a critical factor in determining the type of foundation used in construction. Different soil types possess varying properties, such as load-bearing capacity, drainage characteristics, and stability. When building a structure, it is essential to assess the soil to understand how it will support the weight of the building. For example, clay soils expand when wet and shrink when dry, leading to potential movement that could compromise a foundation. Sandy soils, while well-draining, may not provide adequate support for heavier structures without proper foundation design. Therefore, engineers and architects must choose a foundation type that mitigates the risks associated with the specific soil characteristics to ensure the safety and longevity of the structure. Other aspects of construction, such as roof design, wall height, and insulation material, are influenced by different factors including climate, building codes, and material availability, but the foundation's suitability is directly tied to the underlying soil type. This makes understanding soil type foundational for successful construction practices.

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9. Which building material is most resistant to weather conditions when properly fired?

A. Unfired bricks

B. Clay bricks

C. Concrete blocks

D. Wood panels

Clay bricks, when properly fired, exhibit a high level of resistance to various weather conditions. The process of firing causes the clay particles to undergo a transformation that strengthens the structure of the bricks, making them dense and durable. This firing also leads to lower porosity, which reduces the absorption of water and makes the bricks less susceptible to damage from freeze-thaw cycles, rain, and other environmental factors. In contrast, unfired bricks are much weaker, as they have not undergone the transformative firing process that enhances strength and durability. Concrete blocks, while fairly resistant, do not offer the same thermal properties and fine aesthetic qualities as properly fired clay bricks. Wood panels, although versatile and used in construction, are subject to decay and deterioration from moisture, pests, and other weather-related impacts. Thus, for weather resistance in masonry materials, clay bricks stand out when fired properly.

10. What do granules on composition roofs protect against?

A. Water damage

B. Wind damage

C. Sun damage

D. Debris accumulation

Granules on composition roofs primarily serve as a protective layer against sun damage. They are made of materials that reflect ultraviolet (UV) rays, helping to minimize the heat and UV exposure that can degrade the roof's underlying materials over time. This protection is crucial because excessive sun exposure can lead to accelerated aging, cracking, and loss of structural integrity in roofing materials. While water damage, wind damage, and debris accumulation are important considerations for roofing systems, the specific role of the granules is to guard against the harmful effects of the sun. They can also provide aesthetic benefits by improving the roof's appearance, but their main function is focused on protection from UV radiation, which is why “sun damage” is the correct answer.

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